

October 9, 2003

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

We are writing in representation of millions of consumers and producers across America to express our strong support for full funding in the fiscal year 2004 agriculture appropriations bill for implementation of country-of-origin labeling (COOL).

Senator Daschle, Senator Enzi and Senator Johnson are prepared to offer a Sense of the Senate amendment instructing the agriculture appropriations conferees to remove language inserted into the House of Representatives spending bill, which prohibits the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from spending funds to implement COOL. We strongly urge you to support the efforts of Senators Daschle, Enzi and Johnson when the amendment is introduced.

A report recently released by the General Accounting Office (GAO) refutes the number one argument of opponents of COOL by clearly stating the \$2 billion price tag attached by USDA was based on arbitrary assumptions and not well supported. Given this recent report and the fact that USDA has yet to release the preliminary rules of implementation, it is simply the right thing to do to maintain implementation funding and keep COOL.

Country-of-origin labeling is designed to provide information to consumers and help U.S. producers promote their own products in the marketplace. It does not need to be burdensome or expensive to producers. We believe that, given a choice, consumers will choose to purchase U.S.-produced products. COOL does not violate any of our trade agreements. In fact, the GAO report cited 48 of our 57 trading partners that require country-of-origin labeling on one or more of the covered commodities included in the U.S. law. Without mandatory COOL, consumers in the United States will be denied the ability to differentiate between U.S. and imported products, while consumers in our trading partners' countries maintain that right.

Please vote in support of the Daschle-Enzi-Johnson Sense of the Senate to maintain funding of COOL.

Sincerely,

National Farmers Union
American Farm Bureau Federation
R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America
Consumer Federation of America
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Peanut Producers
American Agriculture Movement of Arkansas
American Agriculture Movement of Missouri
American Agriculture Movement of Oklahoma
American Agriculture Movement, Inc
American Corn Growers Assoc. of Nebraska
American Corn Growers Association

American Meat Goat Association
Arkansas Farmers Union
Beartooth Stockgrowers Association
Burleigh County Farm Bureau (ND)
C.A.S.A. del Llano (TX)
Calaveras County Cattlemen's Association
California Farmers Union
Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association
Center for Rural Affairs (NE)
Churches' Center for Land and People (WI)
Citizens Organized Acting Together

Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers Assoc. (AZ)
Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CA)
Crazy Mountain Stockgrowers Assoc. (MT)
Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease Foundation
Dakota Resource Council (ND)
Dakota Rural Action (SD)
Eagle County Cattlemen's Association (CO)
Fall River & Big Valley Cattlemen's Assoc. (CA)
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Florida Farmers, Inc.
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Assoc.
Florida Tomato Exchange
Georgia Peanut Commission
Grant County Cattlemen's Assoc. (WA)
Holy Cross Cattlemen's Assoc. (CO)
Idaho Farmers Union
Illinois Farmers Union
Illinois National Farmers Organization
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Independent Cattlemen's Assoc. of Texas
Indiana Farmers Union
Indiana National Farmers Organization
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Iowa Farmers Union
Kansas Cattlemen's Association
Kansas Farmers Union
Kansas Hereford Association
Kansas National Farmers Organization
Kemper County Farm Bureau (MS)
Kit Carson County Cattlemen's (CO)
Land Stewardship Project (MN)
Lincoln County Stockmans Assoc. (CO)
Livestock Marketing Association
Madera County Cattlemen's Assoc. (CA)
Malheur County Cattlemen's Assoc. (OR)
McPherson County Farmers Union (KS)
Merced-Mariposa Cattlemen's Assoc. (CA)
Michigan Farmers Union
Mid-Nebraska Pride
Minnesota Farmers Union
Missouri Farmers Union
Missouri National Farmers Organization
Missouri Rural Crisis Center
Missouri Stockgrowers Association
Modoc County Cattlemen's Assoc. (CA)
Montana Agri-Women
Montana Cattlemen's Association
Montana Farmers Union
Montana National Farmers Organization
Montana Stockgrowers Association
National Association of Counties
National Assoc. of Farmer Elected Committees
National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture
National Catholic Rural Life Conference
National Consumers League

National Family Farm Coalition
National Farmers Organization
National Potato Council
Nebraska Farmers Union
Nebraska Grange
Nebraska Livestock Marketing Association
Nebraska Women Involved in Farm Economics
Nevada Live Stock Association
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau
New Mexico Public Lands Council
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.
New York National Farmers Organization
North Dakota Farmers Union
North Dakota Livestock Marketing Assoc.
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Northern Plains Resource Council
Ohio Farmers Union
Oklahoma Farmers Union
Oregon Cranberry Farmers' Alliance
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
Oregon Farmers Union
Oregon Livestock Producers Association
Organization for Competitive Markets
Park County Stockgrowers Assoc. (MT)
Pennsylvania Farmers Union
Platte County Farm Bureau (NE)
Powder River Basin Resource Council
Public Citizen
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA
Rural Roots (ID)
South Dakota Farmers Union
South Dakota Stockgrowers Association
South Eastern Montana Livestock Assoc.
South Texas Hereford Association
Southeast Wyoming Cattlefeeders Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
Southern Research and Development Corp. (LA)
Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Soybean Producers of America
Spokane Cattlemen's Association (WA)
Stevens County Cattlemen's Association (WA)
Sustainable Earth (IN)
Sustainable Food Center (TX)
Texas Farmers Union
Union County Cattlemen's Association (OR)
Utah Farmers Union
Virginia Angus Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Washington Farmers Union
Way Out West Rural Action Group (ID)
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
Yuma County Cattlemen's Association (CO)